

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of using a browsing system to browse a hypertext document, the method comprising:

converting a component in a hypertext document to include an alternate component activation tag;

controlling a display module to display the converted component in the hypertext document to a plurality of users in a shared display environment, the plurality of users each having their own type of portable input device; and

activating the converted component of the hypertext document by receiving an input signal related to the alternate component activation tag from at least one of ~~a plurality of~~ the portable input devices of one of the plurality of users.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein converting a component in a hypertext document to include an alternate component activation tag further comprises parsing the hypertext document to identify hyperlinks and open fields.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein activating the converted component of the hypertext document by receiving an input signal related to the alternate component activation tag~~ further comprises processing different types of the input signals from the different types of portable input devices belonging to each user such that the ~~into a form that the~~ browsing system can recognize the input signal as an activation of the converted component.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein activating the converted component of the hypertext document by receiving an input signal related to the alternate component activation tag comprises activating the converted component by receiving an alphanumeric symbol that represents the alternate component activation tag.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

providing a plurality of browsing modes to perform various navigational commands;
modifying the plurality of browsing modes to include alternate browsing activation tags;
controlling the display module to display the modified plurality of browsing modes to the plurality of users; and
activating a particular browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular alternate browsing activation tag from at least one of the ~~plurality of portable~~ input devices of one of the plurality of users.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein activating a particular browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular alternate browsing activation tag comprises activating the particular browsing mode by receiving an alphanumeric symbol that represents the particular alternate browsing activation tag.

7. The method of claim 1 and further comprising abbreviating the hypertext document such that display space needed in displaying the hypertext document is reduced.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein abbreviating the hypertext document comprises automatically summarizing text in the hypertext document.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein abbreviating the hypertext document comprises automatically reducing image media content in the hypertext document.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

providing a plurality of automated browsing modes to perform various navigational controls;
providing the plurality of automated browsing modes with automated browsing activation tags;

controlling the display module to display the automated browsing modes and automated browsing activation tags to the plurality of users in the shared display environment;
and
activating a particular automated browsing mode.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 and further comprising deactivating the particular automated browsing mode by receiving a command from one of the ~~plurality of the portable~~ input devices of one of the plurality of users.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein activating a particular automated browsing mode comprises activating the particular automated browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular automated browsing activation tag from at least one of the ~~plurality of portable~~ input devices of one of the plurality of users.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein activating a particular automated browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular automated browsing activation tag comprises activating the particular automated browsing mode by receiving an alphanumeric symbol that represents the automated browsing activation tag.

14. The method of claim 1 and further comprising annotating the hypertext document with a unique code such that the input signal is associated with the hypertext document.

15. (currently amended) A method of using a browsing system to browse a hypertext document, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of browsing modes to perform various navigational commands;
modifying the plurality of browsing modes to include alternate browsing activation tags;
controlling a display module to display the modified plurality of browsing modes to a plurality of users in a shared display environment, the plurality of users each having

their own type of portable input device; and

activating a particular browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular alternate browsing activation tag from at least one of a ~~plurality of~~ the portable input devices of one of the plurality of users.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein activating a particular browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular alternate browsing activation tag comprises activating the particular browsing mode by receiving an alphanumeric symbol that represents the alternate browsing activation tag.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 and further comprising:

providing a plurality of automated browsing modes to perform various automated navigational functions;

providing the plurality of automated browsing modes with automated browsing activation tags;

controlling the display module to display the automated browsing modes and automated browsing activation tags to the plurality of users in the shared display environment;

and

activating a particular automated browsing mode.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein activating a particular automated browsing mode comprises activating the particular automated browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular automated browsing activation tag from at least one of the ~~plurality of~~ portable input devices of one of the plurality of users.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein activating a particular automated browsing mode by receiving an input signal related to a particular automated browsing activation tag comprises activating the particular automated browsing mode by receiving an alphanumeric symbol that represents the particular automated browsing activation tag.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 and further comprising:

converting a component in the hypertext document to include an alternate component activation tag;

controlling a ~~the~~ display module to display the converted component in the hypertext document to the plurality of users in the shared display environment; and

activating the converted component of the hypertext document by receiving an input signal related to the alternate link activation tag from at least one of the ~~plurality of portable~~ input devices of one of the plurality of users.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein activating the component of the hypertext document by receiving an input signal related to the alternate link activation tag comprises activating the component of the hypertext document by receiving an alphanumeric symbol that represents the alternate link activation tag.

22. (currently amended) A browsing system for displaying a hypertext document on a display comprising:

a hypertext document converter configured to convert a component in the hypertext document to include an alternate component activation tag;

a hypertext display controller configured to instruct a display module to display the converted component in the hypertext document to a plurality of users in a shared display environment, the plurality of users each having their own type of portable input device; and

an input processor configured to receive and process input signals related to the alternate

component activation tag from at least one of ~~a plurality of~~ the portable input devices of one of the plurality of users.

23. The browsing system of claim 22, wherein the input signal received by the input processor is associated with an alphanumeric symbol.

24. The browsing system of claim 22, wherein the input processor further comprises an output module configured to receive data from the hypertext display controller and output data to at least one of the plurality of input devices.

25. The browsing system of claim 22, wherein the input processor is further configured to process different types of the input signals received from the different types of portable input devices belonging to each user into a form that the browsing system can recognize~~in an order.~~

26. The browsing system of claim 25, wherein the input processor is further configured to implement a scheduling algorithm to process the different types of input signals received from the different types of portable input devices belonging to each user ~~in the~~ an order.

27. The browsing system of claim 22 wherein the plurality of input devices comprises cell phones or personal data assistants (PDAs).

28. The browsing system of claim 22 and further comprising a mode controller configured to modify a plurality of browsing modes to include alternate browsing activation tags.

29. The browsing system of claim 22 and further comprising a mode controller configured to provide a plurality of automated browsing modes with automated browsing activation tags.

30. (canceled).

31. The browsing system of claim ~~30~~22, wherein the ~~shared~~-display comprises multiple screens.

32. The browsing system of claim ~~30~~22, wherein the ~~shared~~-display includes a status display indicating status and historical information related to the input signals from the plurality of input devices.

33. (currently amended) A browsing system for displaying a hypertext document on a display comprising:

a mode controller configured to modify a plurality of browsing modes to include alternate browsing activation tags;

a hypertext display controller configured to display the plurality of browsing modes and alternate browsing activation tags to a plurality of users in a shared display environment, the plurality of users each having their own type of portable input device; and

an input processor configured to receive and process an input signal related to a particular alternate browsing activation tag from at least one of ~~a plurality of the portable input devices~~ of one of the plurality of users.

34. The browsing system of claim 33, wherein the plurality of browsing modes comprises a variety of navigational controls for browsing through hypertext documents.

35. The browsing system of claim 33, wherein the mode controller is further configured to provide a plurality of automated browsing modes with automated browsing activation tags.

36. (currently amended) The browsing system of claim 35, wherein the automated browsing modes comprise continuous scrolling of the hypertext document, continuous cycling through a plurality of hypertext documents, continuous random following of hyperlinks, automatic previewing of hypertext documents and continuous browsing of hyperlinks as specified by a-the plurality of users via their own type of portable input device.

37. (currently amended) The browsing system of claim 33 and further comprising:
a hypertext document converter configured to convert a component in the hypertext document to include an alternate component activation tag, wherein ; and
athe hypertext display controller is further configured to instruct a-the display module to display the component in the hypertext document to the plurality of users in the shared display environment.

38. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing computer executable instructions for implementing the steps of:

converting a component in a hypertext document to include an alternate component activation tag represented by a symbol;

controlling a display to display the symbol representing the converted component to a plurality of users in a shared display environment, the plurality of users each having their own type of portable input device; and

activating the converted component by receiving and processing the symbol an input signal from at least one of the portable input devices of one of the plurality of users.

39. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 38 and further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of browsing modes;

modifying the plurality of browsing modes to include alternate browsing activation tags, each alternate browsing activation tag represented by a symbol;

controlling the display to display the plurality of browsing modes and the alternate browsing

activation tags to the plurality of users in the shared display environment; and
activating a particular browsing mode by receiving and processing ~~a particular symbol~~
an input signal from at least one of the portable input devices of one of the plurality of
users.

40. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 38 and further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of automated browsing modes;
providing the plurality of automated browsing modes with automated browsing activation
tags, each automated browsing activation tag represented by a symbol;
controlling the display module to display the plurality of automated browsing modes and
automated browsing activation tags to the plurality of users in the shared display
environment; and
activating a particular browsing mode by receiving and processing a particular symbol.